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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/374,598	08/13/1999	JAN HENDRIK MENSEN	044696-5007	3958
23345	7590	12/29/2003	EXAMINER	
MCGUIREWOODS, LLP 1750 TYSONS BLVD SUITE 1800 MCLEAN, VA 22102			TRAN, HANH VAN	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3637	

DATE MAILED: 12/29/2003

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



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EXAMINER

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Commissioner for Patents

Art Unit: 3637

1. This Office Communications is in response to the Reply Brief filed on 7/21/03.
2. In response to Appellant's remarks on page 1 of the Reply Brief that "the Examiner's Answer ignores the numerous arguments presented in the appeal brief...", the examiner take the position that said arguments have been addressed in paragraph #11 of the Examiner's Answer under the heading "Response to Argument".
3. In response to Appellant's remarks on page 2, paragraph #2, the examiner agrees with Appellant's statement in the Brief.
4. In response to Appellant's remarks regarding grouping of claims, the examiner agreed with Appellant's grouping of claims presented therein.

***Conclusion***

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hanh V. Tran whose telephone number is (703) 308-6302. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday, and alternate Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lanna Mai can be reached on (703) 308-2486. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-2168.

HVT *HVT*  
December 17, 2003

LANNA MAI  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600

*Lanna Mai*